

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the Quayle Action of 25 JAN. 2006 and requests reconsideration of the application, as amended.

Responsive to Paragraph 2 of the Action, a new FIG. 5 is proposed to be added, showing connecting member 40 extending around the outer periphery of the first rotary encoder. The "Brief Figure Description" on page 8 of the specification is to be correspondingly amended. Applicant believes that FIGS. 1, 3, and 4 **already show** the reduction gear linkage 18 (connecting member 40) extending annularly around a portion of shaft 14 and around the outer periphery of the first rotary encoder 30. The first rotary encoder 30 comprises permanent magnet 22 and first sensor 26; see specification page 9, lines 1-15. Also enclosed is an explanatory mark-up of FIG. 1, demonstrating where the FIG. 5 section is taken; however, no actual revision of FIG. 1 is believed necessary.

Responsive to Paragraph 3 of the Action, the claims have been clarified in the manner helpfully suggested by the Examiner.

No specific comment on the Reasons for Allowance is believed necessary.

If the Examiner detects any remaining informalities, or wishes to make any suggestions to place the application in condition for allowance, a telephone call to Applicant's counsel is invited. Passage to allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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BRIEF FIGURE DESCRIPTION:

Further features and advantages of the invention are evident from the description below of an exemplary embodiment, with reference to the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a highly schematic depiction, in a plan view, of a first embodiment of an apparatus according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows the apparatus of FIG. 1 in an axial section along line II-II of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 shows a second exemplary embodiment of the invention, based on the schematic depiction of FIG. 1, in which more details are shown in an axial section; and

FIG. 4 schematically depicts a third exemplary embodiment of the invention, in plan view as in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 5 shows the apparatus of FIG. 1 in an axial section through rotor shaft 14.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

FIG. 1 show, schematically and not to scale, an apparatus, labeled as a whole with the number 10, for sensing the absolute angular position of a shaft of an electric motor.

Apparatus 10 is coupled to an electric motor (labeled 20) via the motor's shaft 14. A reduction gear linkage 18 is placed on a shaft stem 16, located opposite the drive side of shaft 14, in such a way that shaft stem 16 penetrates completely through reduction gear linkage 18. A first control magnet 22 is mounted on an end 20, of shaft stem 16, that protrudes out of the end surface of reduction gear linkage 18. When electric motor 12 is in operation, first control magnet 22 therefore rotates synchronously with shaft 14 about the rotation axis labeled 24.

A first sensor 26 that is held by a sensor carrier 28 is immovably arranged directly opposite first control magnet 22. Because sensor carrier 28 is arranged nonrotatably (in a manner not shown in further detail) with respect to electric motor 12, first control magnet 22 rotates, relative to first sensor 26, at the rotation speed of shaft 14.

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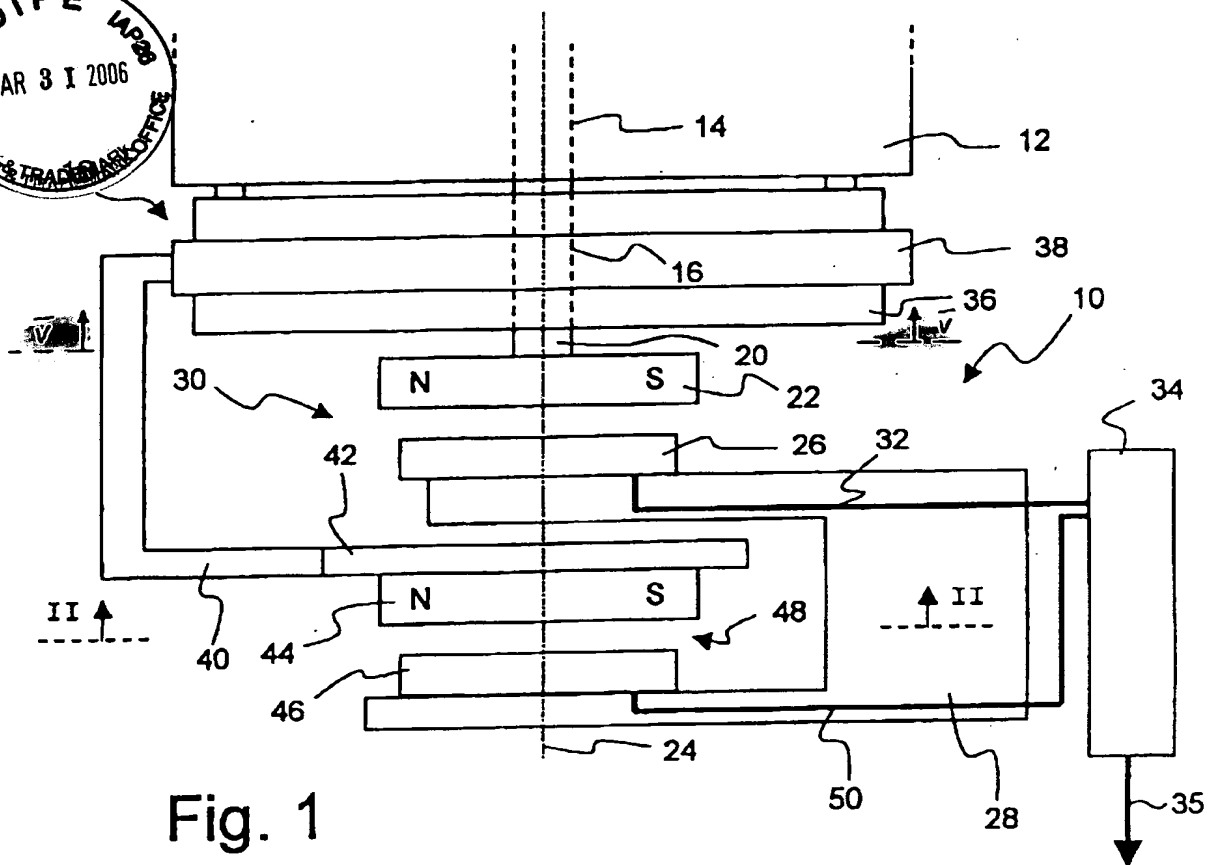
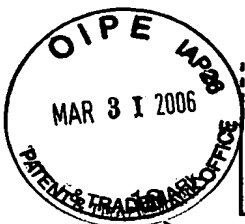


Fig. 1

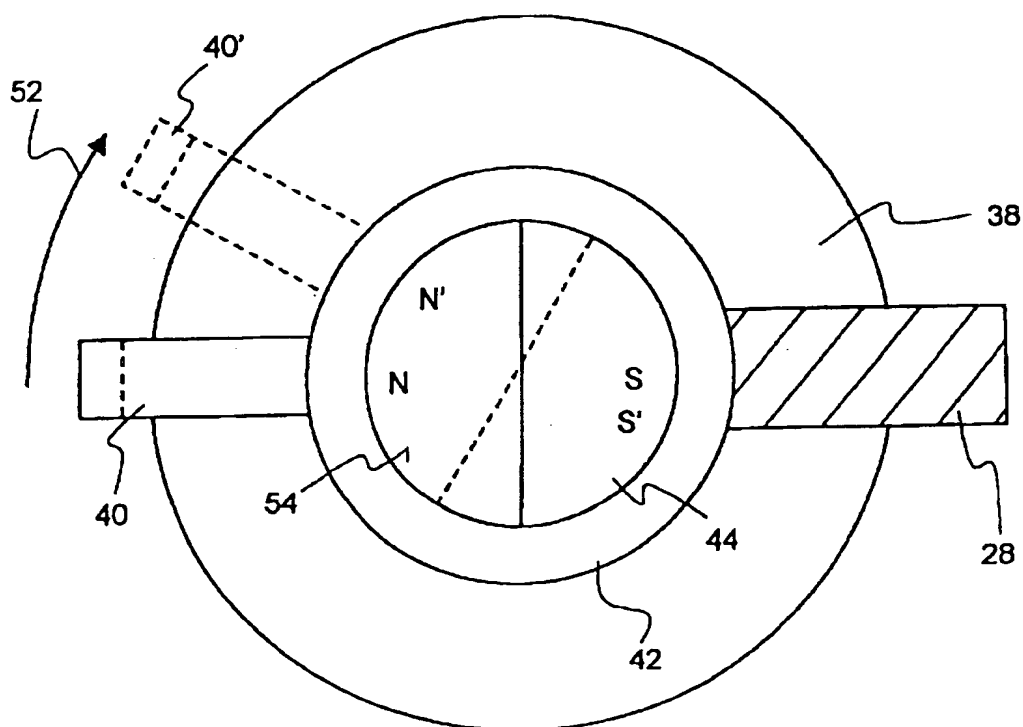


Fig. 2